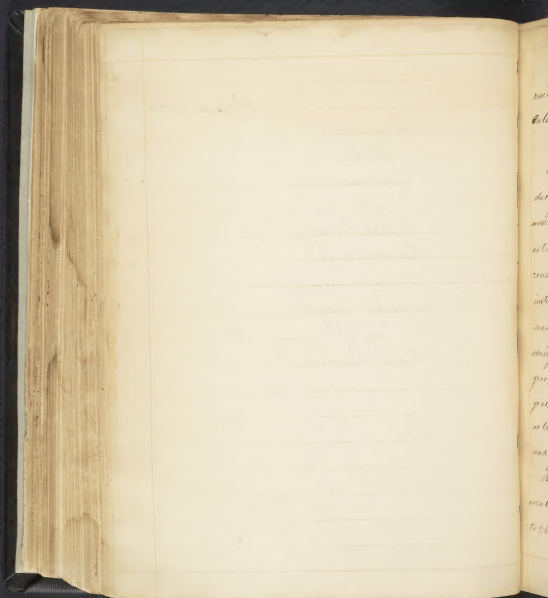


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#5

April 1825

An account  
of the  
Epidemic  
of  
Lancaster County  
Pennsylvania.  
by  
Carpenter Frazer  
of  
Pennsylvania.



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An account of the epidemic bilious fever, which prevailed in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, during the Autumns of the years 1820, '21, '22, '23. -

The Summers and Autumns of the first three years, during which this disease prevailed (those of 1820, '21, '22,) were remarkably and dry & sultry. Indeed, these such seasons as these were not experienced since the first settling of the country. The year '23 was, however, an exception to the others; instead of being like them very dry, it was a remarkably moist season: the months of July and August were refreshed by evening showers; and the country, during the summer of this year, presented a great contrast to those of the three preceding years; in the latter the fields were extremely dry & parched, & no traces of vegetation could be seen; but in the <sup>former</sup> ~~year~~ <sup>years</sup>, ~~were~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~grasses~~ <sup>grasses</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> verdant, & vegetation flourished luxuriantly. -

Having promised these remarks on the general state of the weather, during the prevalence of this disease: we shall proceed to the consideration of its remote and exciting causes.

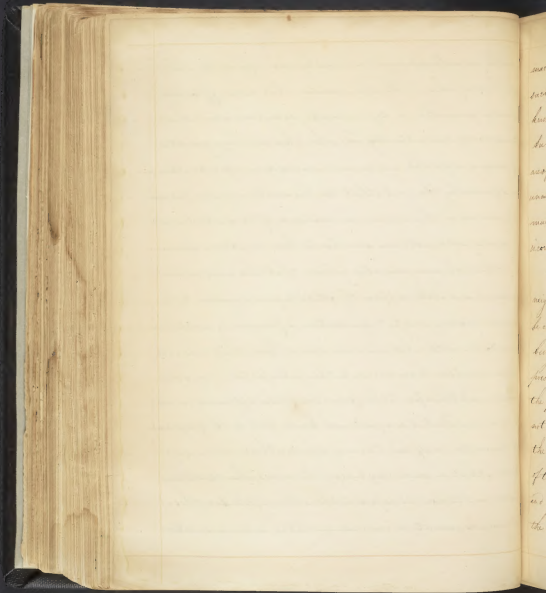


Of the remote cause. - In the process of the decomposition of all organized bodies, ~~whether~~ <sup>whether</sup> animal or vegetable, there is produced by the play of chemical affinities, a peculiar volatile substance, which is held suspended in the atmosphere, and which is attributed by nearly all the physicians of the present day, the property of producing intermittent and remittent fevers. This substance, generated in great quantities, & in a highly concentrated & virulent state, we consider as the remote cause of the disease, which we are to describe in the succeeding pages. It is called miasmata, and it is supposed, that low, moist & marshy grounds, in very warm, sultry & wet seasons, generate it in the greatest quantity and in the most <sup>active</sup> ~~virulent~~ state. This is proved by the fact, that the inhabitants of low and marshy countries are very subject to the attacks of intermittents and remittents; whilst those, who reside in dry & elevated regions, are entirely free from them, except when there is such a peculiar combination of circumstances, as we shall mention shortly. - This miasma arises from the exposed beds of streams, stagnant water and fresh places

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earth, as well as from the marshy and soggy soils, of which we have spoken. - We also consider, that this effluvia may be generated in dry & elevated situations, when the season is rainy, warm & sultry, and when there are large quantities of decaying vegetable and animal matters lying exposed in them; as is proven by the fact, that the Lancaster county epidemic did prevail in the summer and autumn of '23 in situations placed under circumstances similar to those mentioned above.

Medical men generally believe, that this miasma is not produced in a state sufficiently active to prove injurious to the animal frame, unless its production is favoured by moisture, in conjunction with a hot and close atmosphere; that, this state of the weather is conducive to the putrefaction of organic matter, and therefore to the formation of this effluvia, is doubted by none. But it is a fact well known both to the physicians of Lancaster county and those of the Southern section of the Union, that in warm, dry & close summers, when the streams are low and their beds exposed to the action of the sun, this effluvia is generated in immense quantities, and in a condition





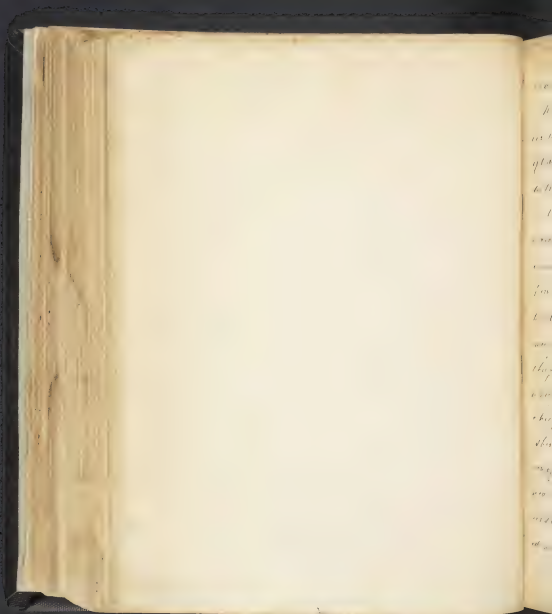
much more violent and concentrated, than when the season is such, as is generally supposed peculiarly favourable to it. These known circumstances, that in the Southern States, when the Summers & Autumns are very warm & dry, the autumnal fever is of a highly malignant character; and that in the hot and unusually dry Summers of 1820, '21, '22, these fevers assumed a much more severe character, than it did in the following years, incontestably prove the above assertion.

The action of this effluvia is not confined to the neighbourhood of the spot, in which it is formed; but may be carried to a considerable distance by the wind, after being mixed with the atmosphere, and still retain the power of affecting the system. The precise distance from the place of its origin, at which it loses this power, is not exactly known: this much, however, we know, that the city of Rome, in the autumn during the prevalence of the southerly winds, is very subject to intermittent and remittent fevers, which the inhabitants ascribe to the winds, blowing over the extensive Pontine marshes.

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*

*[Faint, illegible handwriting on the right edge of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]*







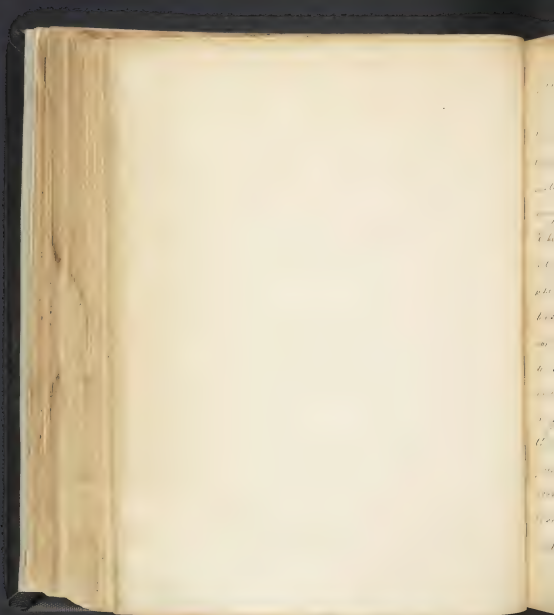








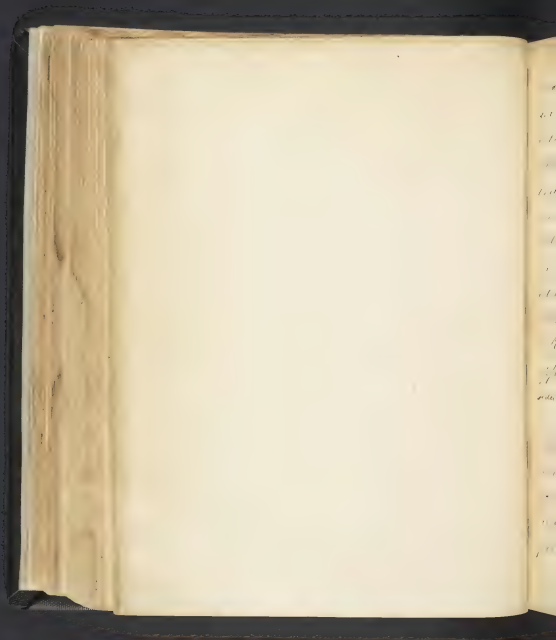




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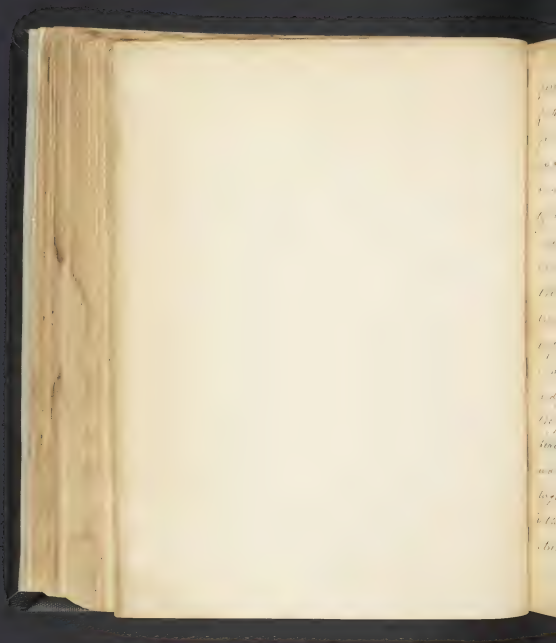


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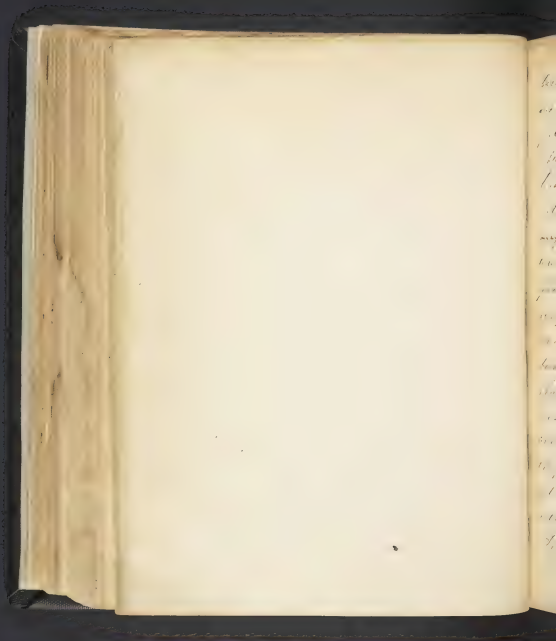
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We have thus attempted a summary of the  
 general as well as the local and personal con-  
 sideration, which it put before our fellow countrymen. —

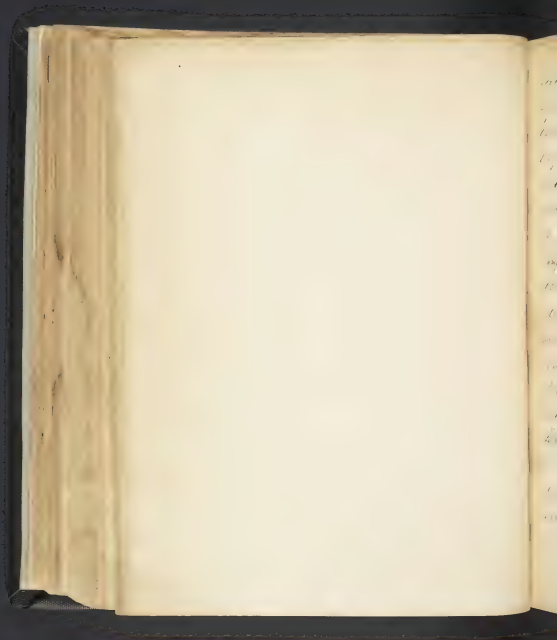




operation shows the nature of the disease. I will  
try to give you a summary of the case. The patient  
is a young man, 25 years of age, who has been  
suffering from a disease of the throat for several  
months. He has been treated with various  
medications, but without success. The disease  
is characterized by a swelling of the throat  
and a difficulty in swallowing. The patient  
has lost a great deal of weight and is now  
very weak. The disease is probably a  
chronic inflammation of the throat, but I  
am not sure. I will try to give you a  
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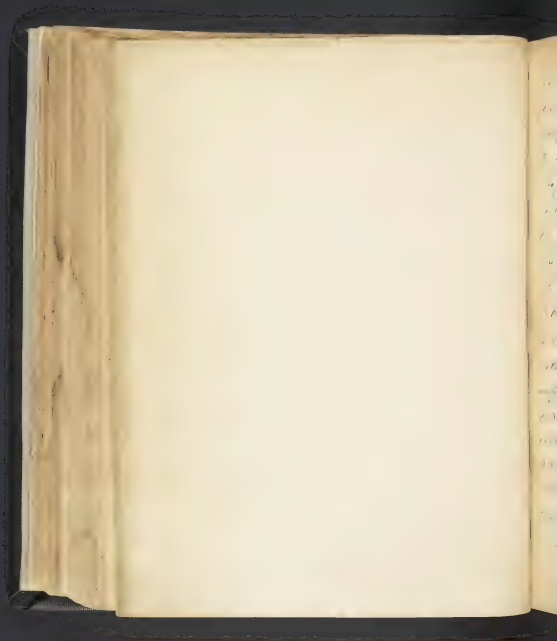


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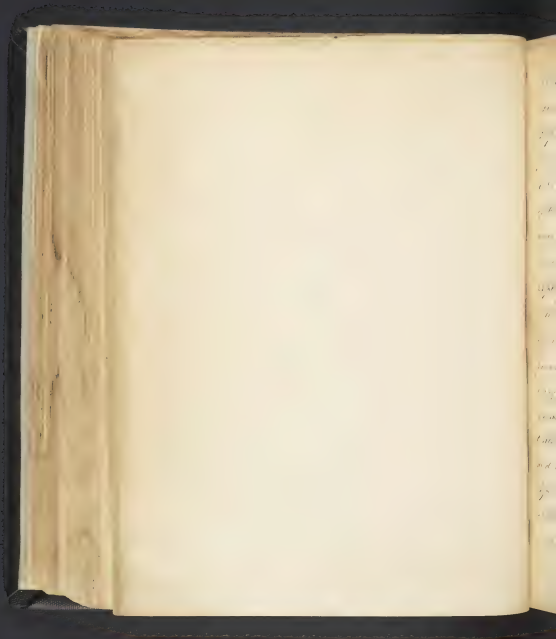


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22.  $\lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{f(x)}{g(x)} = \frac{f'(0)}{g'(0)} = \frac{f'(0)}{0} = \infty$  (if  $f'(0) \neq 0$ )



I have not the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 11th inst. but I am glad to hear that you are well. I am well at present, and hope to be so for some time. I have not much news to write at present, but I am sure you will be interested to hear that I am still in the land of the living. I have not much news to write at present, but I am sure you will be interested to hear that I am still in the land of the living.

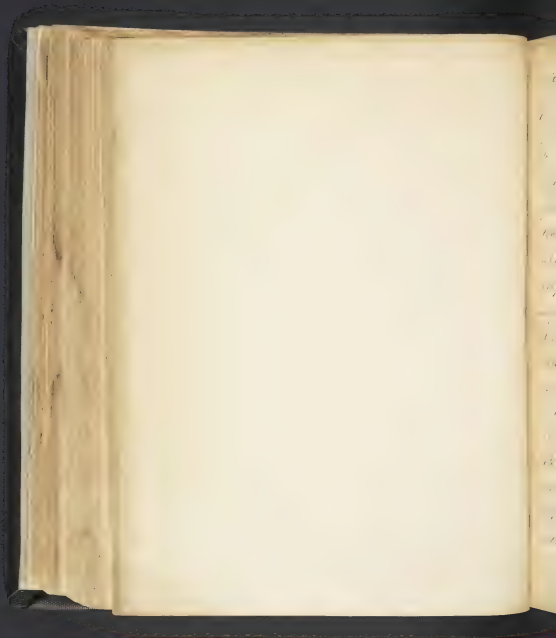




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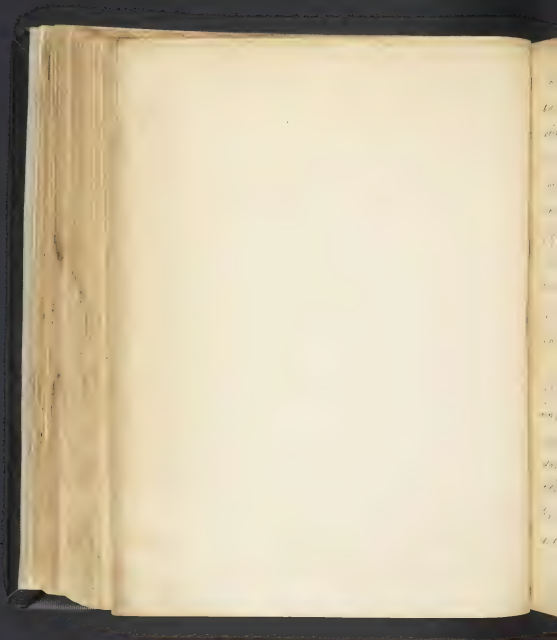


This is a very fine collection of  
plants and animals and the most  
complete ever made. It is a  
great pleasure to see the progress of the  
collection. The plants are very  
fine and the animals are very  
good. The collection is very  
complete and the plants are very  
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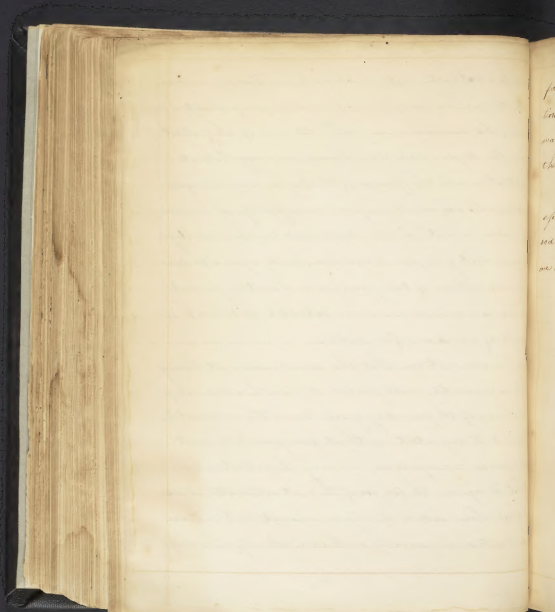






ed by a cathartic. after the stomach and bowels were invigorated, the cinchona was given in large doses during the intermission, this commonly accomplished the cure of the patient in a few days. Some cases, however, were very obstinate, & withstood all the powers of the bark. in such the liquor arsenicalis was usually employed successfully. at large doses of opium, exhibited in the commencement of the cold stage, immediately before it accession, greatly lessened the duration and violence of the paroxysm. - Should the purgative of iron ~~not~~ in a few cases as a substitute for the bark, the result of which was favourable.

The circumstance, that this disease would not bear any copious evacuation, distinguished it from the autumnal fevers of any of the preceding years. Venesection could not be carried to any extent, without giving rise to the most dangerous consequences, reducing the patient as low, that it required the free use of the most active stimulants to raise him; indeed, if a large amount of blood was detracted, he generally sunk down into a typhoid state,



from which he seldom recovered. Even after the opera-  
tion of the first cathartic a copious and powerful  
evacuation of the bowels was dangerous: in this case  
the gentle cathartics were the proper remedies. —

We have now completed the account of this  
epidemic, which we have delineated, as it appear-  
ed to ourselves and the physicians, with whom  
we are acquainted. —

Doctor Phynick.